

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MOBILITY IMPACT MITIGATION  
IN A PACKET DATA COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

A method and apparatus for mitigating the impact of lost data due to cell  
5      reselection for mobile stations operating in packet data transfer mode is described. A  
mobile station may perform cell reselection 2 to 4 times per minute when located in an  
urban area, even if the mobile station remains stationary. A mobile station moving  
through a communications network (100) may cross over various cell and routing area  
boundaries. Further, a mobile station operating in push-to-talk mode may lose up to 8  
10    seconds of data when reselecting a cell in a new routing area.

A serving cell transmits an information element (301, 303, 305) in which the  
mobile station is informed whether cells in its neighbor list are in the same routing area as  
its serving cell. If the radio link to the serving cell is acceptable then the mobile station  
avoids reselection to cells outside its serving cell routing area.